

# RAF COLTISHALL

## A HISTORICAL APPRAISAL

PARTS 10 AND 11

DOMESTIC BUILDINGS, SHQ  
AND OFFICERS MESS COMPLEX



PAUL FRANCIS

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Front: Artwork on the wall of the underground basement refuge / bar in the officers' mess

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## ABBREVIATIONS

AMWD	Air Ministry Works Department / Directorate
ARS	Air-raid Shelter
DoE	Department of the Environment
EWS	Emergency Water Supply
M&E	Mechanical & Electrical
MOJ	Ministry of Justice
MPBW	Ministry of Public Buildings and Works
ORB	Operations Record Book (RAF Form 540)
PSA	Property Services Agency
RC	Reinforced Concrete
RSJ	Rolled steel joist

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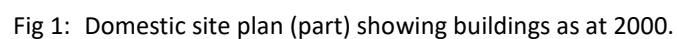


## **PREFACE**

This is one section of a twelve part report that examines the infrastructure and airfield at the former RAF Coltishall, now owned by Norfolk County Council.

Part 10/11 is a stand-alone document examining the structures that make up some of the domestic buildings; it also includes the station headquarters and the guard and fire party house. Three buildings currently owned by MOJ (HMP Bure) which are outside the wire are also included. The report is based mainly on primary sources such as original drawings preserved at Coltishall as well as fieldwork.

The fieldwork was mainly carried out during a two week period in May and one week in June 2013.

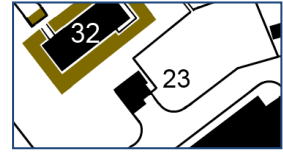


Others such as the families' shop (245) are in private hands.

## 10.1 Ambulance Shed and Mortuary (23)

### 10.1a Introduction

This was originally built as the ambulance garage and mortuary designed by the AMWD architect A Beasley and its drawing number is 5703/36. In more recent times was used by the rugby club as a social club with small toilet extension annexe. The building is located on the southern side and on the same alignment as the decontamination centre (32) with its own roadway.



### 10.1b Description

It is a detached single-storey building with an 'L'-shaped planform and two different roof heights. It consists of the garage (13 ft by 28 ft) and a mortuary annexe (14 ft by 12 ft). The garage part is constructed of 15 in cavity brick walls and the mortuary has an 11 in cavity wall; windows were steel 6-pane casement (now removed and replaced). Both of these are separated by a 9 in wall with door access. The roof is a concrete slab with brick parapet wall around its perimeter.

Main doors to the garage were originally anti-blast steel doors on the inside and roller shutters on the outside but these have been removed and the opening bricked up, although the concrete hurters survive and this is accessed from a tarmac apron. The mortuary also shares the tarmac apron at the front, so that the ambulance can reverse up to a set of double doors (which have been removed and replaced in brick and a pedestrian door). It was originally arranged as an open plan room with a mortuary table and a pair of sinks. Access is not possible.

- NGR: (23) TG 26068 23237

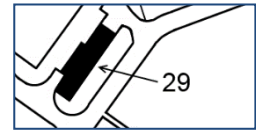


Plate 1: Ambulance shed and mortuary (23), front elevation  
Showing the main entrance to both the garage and mortuary bricked up and smaller doors inserted.

## 10.2 WAAF Decontamination Centre (29)

### 10.2a Introduction

This building is in the ownership of MOJ, but is outside the wire. It is an austerity decontamination centre, similar to those built on domestic sites which are part of temporary airfields. It has a rectangular-shaped planform and is single storey. It is type 'J' designed by Frank Lambert to drawing 16696/39 in November 1939, but has been modified to the deviation drawing 1097/40 to include thicker external walls. The type 'J' was normally for wounded and unwounded men or women, but in Coltishall's case it was allocated to women. The building is distinctive by its prominent water tank house containing an 800 gallon tank on the roof above the showers and its inlet and exhaust stacks over the plant room and boiler rooms.



### 10.2b Description

The building is divided longitudinally into two halves with two entry points, one for unwounded and the other for wounded; there were originally railings to guide personnel through the footbaths and into the building. The unwounded side has a reception and undressing area (dirty clothes having been removed and discarded through metal shutters in the side wall), followed by an airlock to get access to the bleaching / shower room. Wounded personnel made their way to their entrance in the same way, into an undressing area, then through an airlock to a first-aid room. Here a choice was made, whether to exit the building via an airlock because having been treated for first-aid, it was not necessary to get decontaminated – clean clothes were provided through a hatch. Or, if contaminated, they would continue to the bleaching / shower room which is adjacent to the first-aid room. The shower room had two showers in the centre, the floor sloping down from four directions to a central drainage point. Once treated and showered, they made their way to the dressing room, having collected clean clothes from a store along a connecting corridor, and then to exit the building via an airlock. A side elevation at the rear contained plant and boiler rooms. Access was not possible

### 10.2c Construction

External walls are windowless cement rendered 13.5 in solid brick, while internal wall are 4.5 in with a roof of hollow concrete tiles (Sigwart or similar). All doors are gas-tight with rubber seals and lever type locks.

▫ NGR: (29) TG 25852 23366



Plate 2: WAAF decontamination centre (29), view looking south

The dirty clothing hopper can be seen (far left) and the water tank penthouse on the roof.





Plate 3: WAAF decontamination centre (29) for wounded and unwounded personnel



Plate 4: WAAF decontamination centre (29), entrance elevation

The footbath, original doors plus a large and small pressure stabiliser on the end wall can clearly be seen.



### 10.3 Speech Broadcasting House (31)

The speech broadcasting building is located behind the operations block; it was constructed c.1943 and used to house racks of amplifiers feeding numerous Tannoy speakers located around the station. It simultaneously conveyed up-to-date information, usually connected with operations, to the station personnel.



It is a small single-storey windowless but vented building constructed of 4.5 in cement rendered brick with a felt covered lightweight asbestos deck roof and a single entrance with double doors and a concrete path. There is a single room with a concrete slab floor and a longitudinal concrete plinth to support the amplifiers. Access was not possible.

- NGR: (31) TG 26001 23343

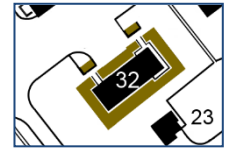


Plate 5: Speech broadcasting house (31)

## 10.4 Decontamination Centre (32)

### 10.4a Introduction

The use of gas in war was outlawed by the Geneva Gas Protocol of 1925 (both Germany and Britain were signatories), but not its production and development. As a result the British Government, with its previous experience of the ease with which signed agreements were broken during hostilities, decided to develop gas weapons and design methods of protection against their use. This included the construction of specialised buildings so that in the event of such an attack, personnel who became gas casualties could receive first-aid treatment and get decontaminated. The decontamination centre was designed to deal with most types of gas developed during WWI: lachrymatory (tear gas) agents, respiratory (choking) agents and blister agents (vesicants).



It was possible to protect oneself from many of the gases by wearing a respirator. Some had distinctive odours that gave sufficient warning of their presence to allow personnel to take cover inside a building or shelter. However mustard gas has only a faint smell of garlic and its symptoms are not always apparent until sometime after the attack. In liquid or vapour form, mustard gas can be absorbed by the skin without being detected. By the time irritation is noticed, the agent has penetrated the surface of the skin and started to cause serious damage. Therefore, warning posts with metal plates coated with detection paint that change colour when exposed to mustard gas were placed at intervals along pathways connecting with buildings.

Basically the idea was to get out of all contaminated clothing, dispose of it, wash thoroughly, and change into fresh clothing as soon as possible. If all this could be achieved within twenty minutes of the initial contamination, serious injury could be avoided.

### 10.4b The Decontamination Building

There were generally two buildings on a pre-war RAF station (although Coltishall had 3) that were able to deal with decontaminating personnel, these were the decontamination centre (32) and the annexe to the sick quarters (33) – the other is the WAAF building (29). The chief difference between the sick quarters annexe (33) and the decontamination centre (32), is that the latter is a detached building for unwounded airmen, the annexe was for wounded airmen and the WAAF building could cope with both wounded and unwounded. The architect was JW Binge, counter signed by PM Stratton and the drawing number is 6224/37 of September 1937. Scheme 'L' stations were the last to feature permanent decontamination centres and annexes. Those built on Scheme 'M' stations were austerity versions.

Unwounded airmen (who did not require treatment for conventional wounds) but who required decontamination from a gas attack would enter the building through a protected opening in the earth bank that completely surrounds the building. The path through the traverses is lined by concrete retaining walls and the path has a gentle slope, which becomes a foot-bath of bleach solution. The first room is a reception area and undressing room (with WC) where contaminated clothes are discarded through metal flaps where they fall into bins outside the building. The concrete floor and internal rendered walls were treated with sodium silicate solution and the floor has a drainage system to allow decontamination to be easily carried out. This part of the building (the 'dirty' side) was at ambient air pressure and therefore, during a gas attack, it was quite likely to be contaminated. To get into the 'clean' side then into the shower and bleaching room where the internal air pressure was above ambient, it was necessary to enter one of two airlocks. The airlock consists of two gas-tight doors separated by a gas-proof compartment.

The bleaching room contains shower cubicles, sinks, bleach store, towel store, dirty towel store and WCs. First of all personnel were required to use the showers, these were arranged as a pair with a space between so that a person could wet himself under one, move into the space to soap himself and then wash off the soap in the next shower cubicle. After the thorough wash, the treatment could begin with the neutralizer to mustard gas – bleach – a specially prepared paste would be rubbed into the affected area and then wiped off after two minutes.

The next room was a dressing area containing a clean clothes store and waiting area, leading to a protected exit via another airlock.

#### 10.4c Construction

The building consists of a windowless single-storey structure with 18 in thick concrete and brick walls protected by earthwork traverses. These along with heavy cased steel beams and internal walls, support a two-tier roof structure. The roof has a one thick-section (12 in) reinforced concrete lower sub-roof and a thin-section (5 in) reinforced concrete upper roof. Separating the two is a composite wall made from 5 in concrete and 4.5 in brick. Cast as part of the lower roof, is a water-tank house containing four 500 gallon tanks directly above the shower room. The cavity between the lower and upper roof is filled with a layer of sand (2 ft 6 in thick) and then a layer of shingle (2 ft thick). So that the tank house has a similar thickness of sand and shingle protection, the centre of the upper roof is carried above the main roof area. It is this hipped-shaped centre section that can be seen prominently above the brick parapet wall which conceals the flat surface of the upper roof. The whole external surface of the roof is covered with asphalt for weather protection.

#### 10.4d AC Plant Room

The northern side elevation houses the plant and boiler rooms. A motor-driven air filtration unit (with a nominal capacity of 1,300 cfm), supplied clean air via high level metal ducting fixed to a wall of the bleaching and dressing rooms – this equipment is extant in the annexe but is missing from this building. Two pressure stabilisers were located on the wall separating the undressing area with the bleaching room then a second pair was fixed on the outside wall of the reception room. In contrast to this arrangement, the decontamination annexe had exhaust trunking that ran the full length of a side-wall and terminated in the undressing room as a pressure stabiliser.

#### 10.4e Boiler Room

When the building was used after an air-raid, the normal procedure was that it received a hot water service from the central heating station. In the event of a failure from this external supply, it would become necessary to use the building's own standby boiler. The first indication in the boiler room that the outside supply has been failed would have been a drop in pressure and temperature, the primary supply valve was then closed and the standby boiler was started and its valve opened. As a hot water service would be more necessary than heating, the plant operator had to make sure to regulate the flow of hot water away from heating.

▫ NGR: (32) TG 26056 23256



Plate 6: Decontamination centre (32), rear view





Plate 7: Decontamination centre (32), plant side and rear elevations



Plate 8: Protected exit from decontamination centre (32)





Plate 9: Decontamination centre (32), interior view of the former bleaching room  
This was subsequently used as an operations control room

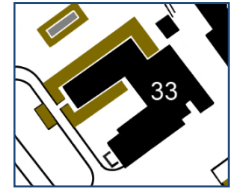


Plate 10: Internal view of the decontamination centre (32)  
following its conversion into an operations control room

## 10.5 Sick Quarters and Annexe/ Regional Medical Centre (33 and 403)

### 10.5a Introduction

The station sick quarters complex is a PM Stratton 7-bed design (7503/37); it is in two parts, the sick quarters building and its annexe. Close by is the ambulance garage and mortuary (23).



### 10.5b Sick Quarters

As designed, the central and major part of the building is two storey with a small single-storey annexe on the NE end and a bricked walled yard on the SW end. The building therefore was originally symmetrical; it has a nominal rectangular-shaped planform but with a central section at the rear being wider than the NE and SW wings. It is on the same alignment as the station headquarters (35).

There is a central entrance and inner porch with a hall and staircase and a staggered longitudinal corridor; the SW side of the entrance has an accident reception room and a store within the wider part of the building. The remainder of the SW part of the building had a kitchen, toilets, medical store and an NCO's office. The NE side of the entrance is a dental surgery in the wide section, a waiting room and connecting corridor with the annexe, a consulting room, inspection room and part of an office. The NE annexe was divided into the other half of the office, a dispensary and toilets.

At first floor level the wider central section only applies to the staircase so, it is narrower at first floor level, the difference being that part of the accident reception and dental surgery on the floor below are partly flat roofed and partly have rooms above. There is an offset central longitudinal corridor with narrow ancillary rooms at the rear and wards at the front. Located dead centre at the front is an orderly room and to the SW is an airmen's ward with four beds. To the NE is an observation ward and two officers' wards (each with a single bed).

The other side of the corridor has the following rooms: pantry, sluice room, toilet and bathroom on the NW side of the stairs and a linen cupboard, toilets and a bathroom on the other side.

### 10.5c Construction

Exterior walls are 15 in cavity brick, internal walls are 4.5 and 9 in. The corridor between the annexe and the sick quarters is 18 in solid brick. The roof is a concrete slab of hollow tiles carried on internal walls and concrete beams. From February 1988, a new pitched roof was added over the old flat one.

### 10.5d Sick Quarters Extensions (403)

In 1966, the MPBW designed a dental centre extension (403) to the sick quarters, to be built against the NE end elevation. It was single storey and included the following: lobby and waiting hall connecting with the corridor in the original building, dental store, plaster room, two dental surgeries, X-ray room and an office. Since then it has been extended further north on two later occasions. A first floor was also added on top of the original NE wing and a ground floor annexe has also been added to the corridor linking the sick quarters to the annexe – the date of this is unknown.

Construction is of 11 in cavity brick exterior walls, the roof is constructed of Bison precast concrete units with a brick parapet wall around its perimeter to match the existing.

### 10.5e Annexe

The normal route for wounded personnel, who were also gas casualties, to get treatment for gas and conventional wounds was via the sick quarters annexe. This entrance was located through the earthwork traverses on the NW elevation. Here a path passes through a foot bath and into a reception area and undressing room. This is an open plan room with a partitioned off valuables office. Once undressed, the dirty clothes were placed through various hoppers, into copper bins located outside the building. An airlock gives access to the next room, the bleaching and shower room and the next is the dressing room with clean



clothes store. The sick quarters can then be accessed via a corridor which leads to waiting room. There are two other rooms, a plant room and boiler room which are both located at the NE end of the annexe. The air filtration plant is extant in this building and this fact is considered today to be very important.

▫ NGR: (33) SSQ 26031 23290, Annexe TG 26016 23310



Plate 11: Station sick quarters (33), front elevation



Plate 12: Station sick quarters (33), side view showing extensions





Plate 13: Station sick quarters (33), view of rear showing the annexe



Plate 14: Station sick quarters annexe (33), view showing original plant  
This is a Lister engine-driven blower and filter pack



Plate 15: Station sick quarters (33), annexe dressing room



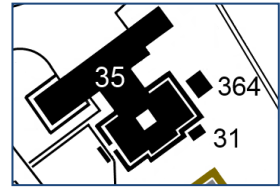
Plate 16: Station sick quarters (33), annexe shower room



## 10.6 Station Headquarters and Operations Room (35)

### 10.6a Introduction

The station headquarters is an AMWD type design by the architect PM Stratton. The building is in three parts consisting of the two-storey main offices at the front, a single-storey operations block at the rear and between these is a two-storey staircase annexe. The Coltishall version is therefore without the second floor meteorological office found on certain bomber stations. It is located at the main entrance to the station, facing the entrance gates with the guard and fire party house set back slightly to the north-east.



### 10.6b Office Block

The main entrance is in a central position, with a wing on either side. There is an entrance lobby, hall and between these is the main longitudinal corridor. The NE wing is subdivided into offices related to station accounts and includes one for the chief accounting officer, also assistant officers, a stationary store, calorifier room and an office for the sergeant major. These, apart from the calorifier room, are accessed from the main central corridor. At the extreme NE end of the building is an open plan area for the stores and general accounting clerks. This room is not full-width on account of a veranda on the SE elevation where there are three opening sashes through which airmen would receive their pay.

The SW wing has a similar corridor with rooms on either side. These are: a waiting room, orderly room for three clerks, another one for five clerks, the engineer's clerk, engineer officer, adjutant and the station CO.

External walls are 15 in cavity brick, internal walls are a combination of 4.5 and 9 in. The roof is a patent concrete slab (such as Smiths fire proof floor planks).

### 10.6c Staircase Annexe

The staircase annexe is the narrow section that connects the offices with the operations block. It has a central lateral corridor connecting the two main parts but also two exterior doors; one on the NE side was for personnel using the staircase to the first floor, and the other which is opposite, was exclusively for operations room staff. Other rooms include officers' toilets, airmen's toilets, store, the staircase hall and a hydrogen store. At the far end of the lateral corridor was a steel fireproof door (now missing) which gives access to the operations block.

Construction is similar to that for the offices, the corridor walls in this section are 9 in; they are structural in case of near-miss bomb blast and form the main escape route.

### 10.6d First Floor

The first floor is arranged within an upper floor having a 'T'-shaped planform. The staircase opens out into a landing and corridor within the foot of the 'T'. Opposite the staircase is an office for the education officer and a cupboard, which, on bomber stations, would be where a set of stairs would normally give access to the floor above, but this has been omitted at Coltishall. Next to the education office is a clerk's office and opposite this is a cloakroom.

The front part of the first floor has a small longitudinal corridor which gives access to a library and two lecture rooms.

### 10.6e Operations Room

The operations block is a protected building, in that it has a two-part roof structure consisting of an upper reinforced concrete slab 5 in thick plus a lower 12 in roof slab. Separating the two is a 4 ft 6 in void. This is filled with a lower layer (2 ft 6 in) of sand and shingle and an upper layer of 2 ft of shingle only.

Furthermore, a hollow 10 ft 6 in and 18 in wide tall blast wall surrounds the structure – the void is also filled with sand and shingle. Both of these measures are designed to give protection against near-miss bomb blast and direct hits against incendiaries.

- NGR: (35) SHQ TG 25975 23361, Ops Block TG 25989 23344



Plate 17: SHQ (35), front view 2007



Plate 18: Annexe to SHQ (35), airmen's pay counter





Plate 19: Operations room (35), view looking north 2007

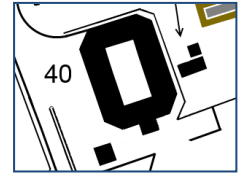


Plate 20: Operations room (35) and speech broadcasting building (31)  
There is also an unnumbered cabin which is now demolished 2009

## 10.7 Guard and Fire Party House (40)

### 10.7a Introduction

The guard and fire party house occupies a position at the entrance to the station along the main drive and is the first and last building on entering or leaving the site. It faces SW and is set back on the northern side to allow the SHQ to face the main drive. It is a Scheme 'L' design, consisting of a single-storey brick and concrete structure with an internal planning based around a lozenge-shaped planform (the four corners are known as triangles which are architecturally interesting as they function – either as external access points or as light wells). There is a large 28 ft by 60 ft centrally located exercise yard which also functions as a light well. Rooms are therefore arranged around the exercise yard.



### 10.7b Room Arrangement

As originally designed, the accommodation is split between civilian wardens, the fire party and personnel forming the station guard. The front elevation is symmetrical with a veranda, the roof of which is supported by four pairs of brick piers and at either end is a loggia. There is a central entrance veranda, which is divided between the guardroom, followed by an NCO's room, SAA store and then a civilian warden's barrack area on the right.

The NW side contains the guardroom while beyond this is the general detention room, a corridor with access to the exercise yard and service detention room, and lavatories for the guard. As originally constructed it was not possible to get access from here to the remainder of the building.

From the civilian warden's barrack room at the SE end of the veranda there is an 'L'-shaped corridor that forms a perimeter of the exercise yard. From here there is access to the fire party barrack room located at the rear of the building, and a lavatory / bathroom. Other rooms include a paint and repair shop, and the prophylactic treatment room. Both of these are accessed from the eastern triangle. The central part of the SE side elevation is the fire tender house which extends beyond the main building. The last room is a calorifier chamber, which is behind the service detention room and is accessed from the NW triangle.

### 10.7c Construction

External walls are 15 in vented cavity brick with internal walls of 9 in brick. Windows were originally 2, 3 and 10-pane steel casements, and metal grill windows within timber surrounds in the detention rooms. The main entrance had five-panel stout timber doors and the fire tender house had a steel roller shutter type door. The roof is 5 inches of reinforced concrete slab of protected roof design.

- Footprint: dimensions: 105.93 ft by 75.14 ft (32.29 m by 22.90 m)
- NGR: (40) TG 25948 23473



Plate 21: Guard and fire party house (40), front elevation





Plate 22: Guard and fire party house (40), air-raid warning siren



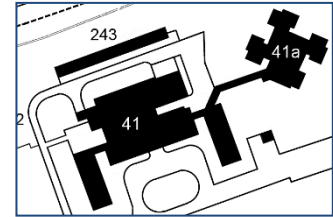
Plate 23: Guard and fire party house (40), exercise yard

## 10.8 Sergeants' Mess and Quarters (41) and Single Sergeants' Quarters (41A)

### 10.8a Introduction

The sergeants' mess and quarters as-built at Coltishall is the largest example of the pre-war designs and is based on the scale 170/17 which represents a mess hall for 170 sergeants with 17 bedrooms in the central block.

This scale contrasts with sergeants' messes elsewhere such as at Wyton, Honington and Bassingbourn and which were built to the scale of 116/14.



The building was designed by Frank Lambert to drawing 11525-27/38 and is based on an earlier one by JH Binge. It is a Scheme 'L' version with a protected roof. The building is nominally south facing consisting of a two-storey combined central mess and quarters block flanked at the extreme ends (E and W wings) by additional quarters which are link-detached to the central block by corridors, (these were built to different drawings from the central block). The complex is therefore designed on the internal dispersal principle whereby the central element – the dining room and recreational facilities – is separated from the accommodation wings by lengths of corridors with the idea of localising the effects of damage by a single bomb. Another feature of this is the corridor which runs full width connecting with both wings at the extreme ends and all mess facilities within the central block as well as all exits (along its length). The corridor also has a 5 ft deep subway to carry the central heating pipes (feed and return) and primary hot water from the District Heating Scheme.

### 10.8b Air-Raid Shelter Provision

Another feature of its design is an underground refuge located beneath the entrance hall with an escape tunnel to a point clear of the building.

### 10.8c Ground Floor (central block)

The public rooms on the ground floor of the central block are based on a 'T'-shaped planform with a central entrance hall with the main corridor running E/W. The hall has stairs to the quarters above and beyond this is an inner hall leading to the mess room which is aligned N/S. On the east side of the hall is the anteroom, while on the opposite side are ablutions, billiard room and a visitors' room with a female toilet.

Kitchen facilities are located within an 'L'-shaped annexe built on the east side of the mess room and this part is single storey. This contains a large kitchen, a scullery, cooks' room, servery, beer store, office, wash-up and separate areas for preparing meat, pastry and vegetables.

### 10.8d East Kitchen Yard / Staff quarters

On the east side of the kitchen annexe were originally two yards, one open and the other having outhouses used as stores and a larder, but these have been replaced with a staff quarters annexe consisting of male and female mess rooms and a female toilet.

### 10.8e Recreation Room Extension

In April 1968 the MPBW designed an extension to the mess to create a larger lounge bar with brick / concrete block with a roof of Metsec trusses clad with woodwall slabs. This took place on the west side of the mess room, the open space (which may have been an empties yard originally) between the west quarters block and the connecting corridor. The extension includes a large lounge, recreation room, TV room and a patio area and light well. A new out building area and yard has also been built adjacent to the extension.

### 10.8f First Floor (central block)

Sergeants' quarters on the first floor consists of 17 bedrooms, ablutions, toilets, a cleaning room and a drying room.

### 10.8g Accommodation Wings

The link-detached two-storey quarters blocks were designed on the same internal dispersal policy as the mess, but the Coltishall version has a rectangular-shaped planform, they are not 'L'-shaped as built elsewhere. Each block could accommodate 24 NCOs and had ablution facilities similar to the first floor of the central block. Both floors have a central corridor with rooms on either side.

### 10.8h Construction

Exterior walls of the original building are 15 in vented cavity brick with the inner corridor wall of 11 in cavity brick. Other internal walls are mainly 9 in brick with some 4.5 in brick room partitions. Windows were originally 5 or 12-pane steel casements at first floor level and either 8 or 16-pane steel casements on the ground floor. The building incorporates a flat protected roof design of reinforced concrete slab – probably a Smith's patent fireproof floor.

The quarters blocks are of similar construction but windows originally were 12-pane steel casements for both floors on the outer facing elevations. Inner facing elevations had either 4 or 8-pane steel casements. Bedroom partitions and corridor are 4.5 in brick. Sometime in the mid-1980s, the PSA added a pitched roof to the original flat roofs.

### 10.8i SNCO's Quarters Extension (41A)

Constructed in 1979, is a link-detached three-storey quarters block was built to the east which is accessed from a corridor off of the existing one that connects the mess with the original east quarters wing. It was designed at the Croydon office of the PSA, the project manager being AC Patel. It is constructed of a brick clad reinforced concrete frame, beams and floor units supplied by Carter Concrete Ltd and built by RG Carter Ltd (both companies being part of the same group). At ground floor level it consists of four similar interlocking flats built around a central hall. The hall at first and second floor levels becomes a light well and the flats at these levels are built around it. Each flat on each floor consists of a lobby, six bedrooms plus a utility room / drying room, laundry or ablutions and toilets which are shared by all flats at each level.

- NGR: (41) TG 26056 23490, (41A) TG 26124 23525



Plate 24: Sergeants' mess (41), main entrance

Photo: Aldon Ferguson 2005





Plate 25: Sergeants' mess (41), main block



Plate 26: Sergeants' mess (41), main west wing





Plate 27: Sergeants' mess (41), dining hall 2013



Plate 28: Sergeants' mess (41), dining hall 2005

All 2005 interior photos: Aldon Ferguson





Plate 29: Sergeants' mess (41), anteroom 2005



Plate 30: Sergeants' mess (41), lounge bar 2005





Plate 31: Sergeants' quarters (41A)

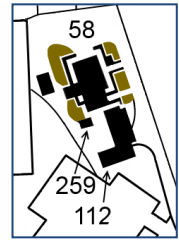


Plate 32: Sergeants' quarters (41A)

## 10.9 Standby Set House (58) and Oil Tank Bund (112)

### 10.9a Introduction

This building is owned by the MOJ but is outside the wire. It is in two parts, consisting of the standby set house and a diesel oil tank compound. It is mainly single storey (with a small part two storey) and of various roof heights. It provided a standby service to key buildings that required an uninterrupted power supply, such as the watch office, operations room and aviation petrol installations. The electric supply from the standby set was distributed on a dispersed set of cables run on a different route from the mains cables so that in the event of the permanent circuit being damaged, the standby one should be serviceable.



### 10.9b Standby Set House (58)

The original design drawing is 10966/38, and consisted of the single-storey engine room (36 ft by 24 ft) constructed as a protected building and surrounded by a 13 ft high blast wall (without earth work traverses). Between the blast wall and the engine room is a passageway that opens out slightly at one end where there used to be a silencer pit. There was originally just one entrance, through the blast wall with a sliding steel blast door and then through double timber doors into the engine room. The original engine was probably a Blackstone type rated at 150 kW similar to Binbrook, Honington, Horsham St Faith, Uxbridge and Wyton (amongst many others) but it was replaced in 1952 with a 1 MW alternating set, and this was replaced in 1961 with a 1.5 MW English Electric alternating set in a similar project that occurred at Leuchars, Wattisham and West Raynham. Outside there used to be an underground fuel chamber but this has been demolished.

Construction of the main building is of 13.5 in solid brick external walls with internal piers carrying a 3-ton travelling crane, the internal wall finish is salt-glazed bricks. The engine room originally had a concrete platform or mezzanine floor housing a 1,000 gallon cooling tank, but this is now missing. The roof structure is a two-stage protected arrangement with a lower one which is a concrete slab 1 ft thick and an upper one of 6 in concrete slab. The 4 ft 6 in void between these is filled with sand and shingle.

The building was extended after 1952 when a cooling chamber was built, and above this a water tank room having a 2,000 gallon water tank which replaced the mezzanine floor. At an unknown date, a substation room has been built against a side elevation.

The blast wall, (parts of which have been removed but most of it is extant), is hollow and is filled with sand and shingle. One of the sections that is missing is where the new engine exhaust stack is located and the part over the main entrance. Probably around 1982, earthwork traverses had been built up against the blast walls as part of a series of security measures that were carried out in the UK following the IRA bombing of a barrack block at Uxbridge in 1981.

### 10.9c Oil Tank Compound (112)

After 1952, the existing underground fuel tank was removed and replaced with new tanks installed inside a bunded compound.

After July 1982 a series of security measures were carried out to the diesel fuel installation which included providing a single-storey portal frame over the installation. This was supplied by Bell and Webster and was clad with metal PVC-coated cladding with roof lights. The perimeter bund wall was also extended upwards with lightweight concrete blocks.

- NGR: (58) TG 25836 23430





Plate 33: Stand-by set house (58), front elevation



Plate 34: Stand-by set house (58), side elevation showing the modern earthwork traverses





Plate 35: Oil tank bund (112)



Plate 36: Standby set house (58), English Electric diesel engine





Plate 37: Standby set house (58), English Electric diesel engine

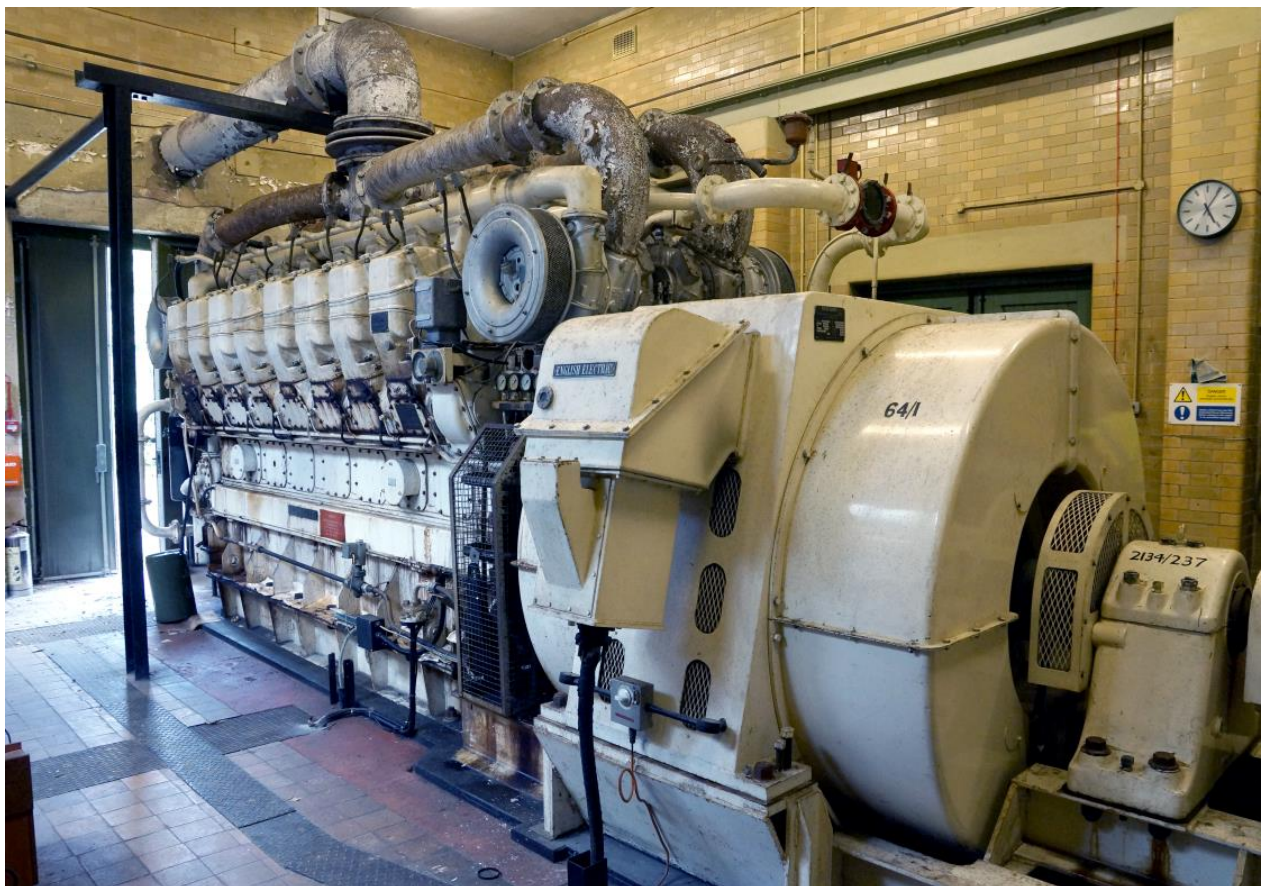
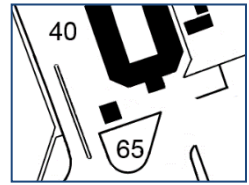


Plate 38: Standby set house (58), English Electric diesel engine



### 10.10 Post Office / RAF Police Flight (65)

The Post Office is located adjacent to the guard and fire party house at the main entrance to the station. It is a single-storey 2-bay temporary brick hut with a square-shaped planform. It is an early wartime version as it features timber instead of metal trusses – it therefore dates to 1940 / 41. The roof has been re-clad with modern profiled sheeting.



It is constructed with cement rendered 4.5 in external walls with external piers and consists of a single entrance with internal porch and a large room subdivided by a concrete counter arrangement. There is a Stephen Cox & Son safe in one corner and a concrete writing bench for customers.

- Footprint: (internal) 20 ft by 19 ft 2 in ( 6.10 by 5.84 m)
- NGR: (65) TG 25941 23449



Plate 39: Post Office (65)



Plate 40: Post Office (65), interior view  
Looking from behind the counter towards the internal porch. Note the timber truss



Plate 41: Post Office, view looking towards the counter and safe



### 10.11 Station Incinerator (66)

The station incinerator is a small single-storey building, it is constructed of cement rendered 9 in vented brick with one window on the east elevation (which may not be original). It has a 4 in concrete slab roof. There are two entrances (presumably it original had a pair of incinerators) and a modern breeze block dividing wall which divides the building into two equal halves (7 ft 3 in by 8 ft 5 in). A chimney stack is located at the rear as well as a concrete block supports for an oil tank which is missing. Access is not possible to one half.

▫ NGR: (66) TG 26097 23269

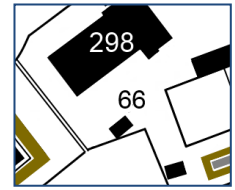


Plate 42: Incinerator building (66), front view



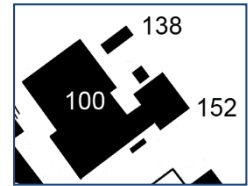
Plate 43: Incinerator building (66), rear view



## 10.12 Gymnasium (100) and Squash Courts (152)

### 10.12a Introduction

The gymnasium is an AMWD type design (7559 – 7560/60F) dating to 1960. It consists of the gymnasium hall which rises above a 'U'-shaped and single-storey changing room annexe arrangement built around three sides of the main building – which has since been extended.



### 10.12b Gymnasium

The gymnasium hall is constructed of RC roof trusses carried on tapered RC stanchion that form a rigid portal frame arrangement covering six bays – these are arranged at 14 ft I in centres. There is a high-level RC beam spanning the stanchions which also acts as a lintel. Wall in filling is cavity 11 in brick. Roof cladding is reinforced asbestos cement troughing fixed to angle iron purlins.

### 10.12c Annexe (as-built description)

The main entrance is in the centre of the front elevation and gives access to an entrance hall and lateral corridor. On this elevation on one side is a staff officers' changing room, sports store and an office; the annexe then continues around to the side elevation to include male changing rooms, showers and a store. On the other side of the main entrance are WRAF officers' showers and WRAF officers' changing room; the annexe continues around the side wall to include WRAF changing room, WRAF showers and a plant room.

In more recent times, the internal planning has altered to include a weight lifting room, and the corridor continues in a NE direction to link up with the new squash racquets court.

The annexe is built of 11 in cavity brick, with a flat roof of precast concrete roof units.

### 10.12d Squash Racquet Courts (152)

In October 1975, the PSA designed a double squash court to be built as an annexe to the gymnasium; at first it was a detached building (152) and located on higher ground than the gym. In 1983, the space between the two buildings was developed for a new changing room, and a sports store plus a corridor with steps to connect with the squash court. Furthermore a new circuit training room was added against the NE elevation which was carried out in a similar style as existing, although the roof is a felt covered plywood deck supported on timber joists and not a concrete slab.

▫ NGR: (100) TG 26059 23329, (152) TG 26085 23333



Plate 44: Gymnasium building (100)



Plate 45: Gymnasium (100), front view



Plate 46: Gymnasium (100), rear view





Plate 47: Gymnasium (100), interior view



Plate 48: Gymnasium (100), fitness room



Plate 49: Squash racquets court (152)



Plate 50: Squash racquets court (152), interior



### 10.13 Store (168)

This is a former resource cabin that used to be located on one of the protected aircraft hardstandings which were erected after May 1986. It is believed to be an Elliot-Medway portable unit constructed of steel-framed units with timber framed panels clad externally with Colorcoat steel sheeting and internally with plasterboard.

▫ NGR: TG 26002 23356

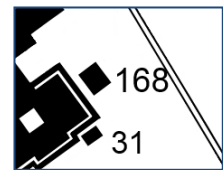


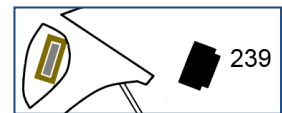
Plate 51: Store (168)



Plate 52: Store (168)

### 10.14 Sports Pavilion (239)

The sports pavilion is single storey with a rectangular-shaped planform and a pitched roof having a cladding of clay tiles. It was designed to drawing FCW/130/57.



It has two similar size dressing rooms (16 ft by 12 ft), shower cubicles and toilets. The rear provides access to a calorifier room (6 ft 7 in by 10 ft 8 in) and a ground equipment garage (10 ft 8 in by 7 ft 3 in). The central entrance via concrete steps at the front is accessed via a loggia; the main roof extends down to and is supported by six timber posts with brick foundation blocks.

Construction is of 9 in brick with fair face brick to the end elevations and rendered longitudinal walls. Windows are mainly steel framed in timber sub-frames. The floor is concrete with wood strip flooring in the two changing rooms and lobby / corridor.

▫ NGR: (239) TG 26022 23395



Plate 53: Sports pavilion (239), front elevation



Plate 54: Sports pavilion (239)



### 10.15 Sergeants' Mess Garages (243)

The sergeants' garages is a terrace row of 20 lock-up garage bays at the rear of the mess; they are constructed of prefabricated concrete units bolted together and with steel purlins, that originally carried corrugated asbestos sheeting, but has since been replaced with profiled metal sheeting. Doors are aluminium Westland-style up-and-over versions. They may have been manufactured by Ernest Batley.

▫ NGR: TG 26042 23525

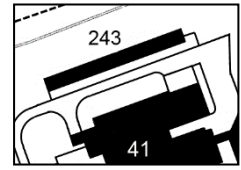


Plate 55: Sergeants' garages (243)



Plate 56: Sergeants' garages (243)



## 10.16 Swimming Pool (298)

In the mid-1960s, it is thought (unconfirmed) that County Swimming Pools Ltd constructed an open-air swimming pool which later was roofed over with GRP. It is presumed also that because the swimming pool is an encroachment, that it was funded by donations from personnel as well as the following funds:

- RAF Central Fund
- Nuffield Trust
- Service Institute Fund

It consists of a main entrance and foyer with male and female changing room and a corridor which gives access via a footbath to the swimming pool. This is constructed of 11 in cavity brick with a timber joist and woodwool clad roof. There is an attached plant room. The swimming pool is approximately 20 m by 10 m and is a fully lined pool with a surrounding tiled walkway.

The GRP canopy is a clear span arrangement fixed to an aluminium frame; it is only over the swimming pool and sits on top of a dwarf wall.

▫ NGR: (298) TG 26088 23291

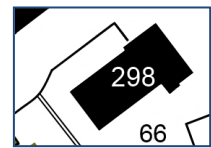


Plate 57: Swimming pool (298), looking towards the changing rooms from the deep end





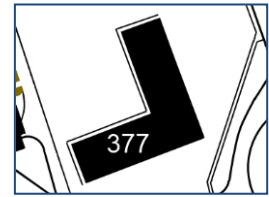
Plate 58: Swimming pool (298), main entrance



Plate 59: Swimming pool (298), showing GRP cover

### 10.17 Education and Training Centre (377)

This building is in the ownership of the MOJ. It is a commercially designed and built prefabricated structure by Elliot Presco Buildings Ltd. It is single storey, with an 'L'-shaped planform and was constructed after June 1994, being handed over in November of that year. It was originally a flat-roofed structure but, because of problems associated with rain water leaking through the roof, in 1996 it was over-roofed with a steel truss system clad with steel sheeting. By clever design, the trusses project out the building and are carried on external steel square-shaped columns thus having no structural impact on the original building.



External walls are sectional insulated cavity metal faced units constructed above brick dwarf walls. Windows are powder coated steel-framed double-glazed units. The building contains offices, conference rooms, class rooms, a kitchen and toilets.

▫ NGR: (377) TG 25895 23413



Plate 60: Education and training centre (377), main entrance



Plate 61: Education and training centre (377)



## 10.18 Miscellaneous Buildings

### 10.18a Gymnasium Store (138)

The gymnasium store is a prefabricated garage, constructed of decorated concrete panels and a roof of corrugated asbestos sheeting. It is an Ernest Batley building or similar.

▫ NGR: (138) TG 26070 23354

### 10.18b Police Flight Offices (355)

The police flight offices is a small portacabin or similar type of prefabricated portable building; close by is a timber shed (361).

▫ NGR: (355) TG 25967 23473



Plate 62: Gymnasium store (138)



Plate 63: Police flight offices (355)

**Part 11: Domestic Buildings – Officers' Mess Complex**



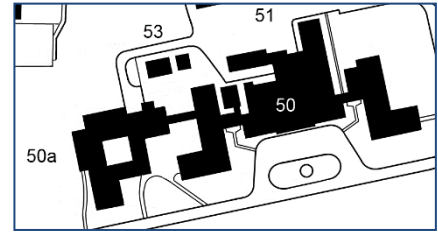
Fig 2: Domestic site (part)  
Showing the location of buildings and structures that are part of the officers' mess complex as at 2000



## 11.1 Officers' Mess and Single Officers' Quarters (50)

### 11.1a Introduction

The officers' mess is a complicated complex of single-storey and two-storey buildings at various roof levels as well as basements. It essentially consists of a main central single-storey block with mess rooms, as well as kitchens at various levels behind the main function rooms and flanked by two-storey accommodation wings, one on either side (east and west).



### 11.1b Historical Background

In October 1934 the architect, A Bulloch, FRIBA was seconded from the Ministry of Works, to the Air Ministry under the Director of Works and Buildings (DWB) as its chief architectural advisor of the new RAF Expansion programme. The department had a staff of 78 to carry out this task which included a total redesign of technical and domestic buildings as well as the planning of whole aerodromes. Buildings designed under this office are all 'revised type designs' requiring large numbers of architectural drawings which in the first phase were completed between 1934 and 1935 for Scheme 'A'. One of the department's tasks was to completely investigate and redesign all aspects of the recreational facilities for officers at the operational RAF stations. All of these drawings at this time carried Bulloch's name although it was more likely that he advised and reviewed designs prepared by others within the DWB.

The central element of the officers' married quarter estate and recreational facilities is the officers' mess and single quarters while other parts of the group are the squash racquets court, garages and married officers' quarters (OMQ).

The central mess complex is always south facing, with the squash court and garages generally located at the rear, while the pre-war constructed OMQs (also mainly southerly aspect designs) are positioned close by but connected by internal roads and paths to the main complex which make up the whole estate.

Bulloch's idea was to create a standard type design of mess building based around a common formal neo-Georgian style but include three sizes of mess and three sizes of quarters. A choice of a particular size depended on the number of officers that were originally planned for the station and the class of aircraft (such as bomber or fighter) that were to be based there.

The Coltishall version is the type 'C' (protected roof design) and could accommodate up to 55 officers in the mess. This arrangement is therefore, the larger version of the three. The three mess types are:

- Type 'A': Fighter Aerodromes – 26 to 35 officers in the mess such as at Church Fenton and Duxford
- Type 'B': Medium Bomber Stations – 36 to 45 officers in the mess, other examples include Upwood and Wyton
- Type 'C': Heavy Bomber and Army Co-operation Stations – 46 to 55 officers in the mess, examples include Finningley, Dishforth and Catterick.

Between 1934 and 1939 all new operational stations as well as some of the older RAF airfields had a mess complex built to one of these classes.

### 11.1c Scheme 'L' and 'M' Designs

During the final RAF expansion schemes, stations designed and built during the transition between peace and war, were built on similar lines to the original Bulloch designs but had certain austerity measures added to the structure. Oakington and Waterbeach for example, both Scheme 'M' stations and as such would have had a mess based on a different letter code sequence. By the time these stations were planned, the Air Ministry criteria of floor area allowed for each officer had been reduced due to the increase in officer establishment. This was due to mobilisation and the fact that married officers were no longer allowed to be accommodated in their married quarters.

The revised sizes of Scheme 'M' of 1939 were as follows:

- Type D: for 60 officers based on the old Type 'A' – (examples unknown)
- Type E: for 65 officers based on the old Type 'B' – (examples unknown)
- Type F: for 70 officers based on the old Type 'C' – examples are Oakington, Ouston and Waterbeach (it is quite likely that all Scheme 'M' stations had a type 'F' mess and the other two types were never actually built).

This new criteria of floor area per officer was based on the original Bulloch designs but the architect Frank Lambert (who replaced him) also changed the roof construction to conform to the latest Air Ministry requirements for protection against near-miss bomb blast. The Oakington example therefore is the largest version (type F) and features a protected design of flat reinforced concrete roof instead of the more common pitched roof design.

Another feature of the later schemes and which is not found on the original drawing is the provision of an underground basement refuge or air-raid shelter with an escape tunnel, to drawing 3374/39 which is a deviation drawing by Frank Lambert. The entrance to the stairway is located next to the main dining room, and is accessed from the main corridor. The shelter is 20 ft by 11 ft 3 in and has a central row of tubular stanchions supporting the roof; walls are 9 in thick.

Yet another significant change to the Bulloch design is the shape of the quarters. The traditional pattern is rectangular in plan but the later schemes have 'L' shaped quarters. This planning offers better protection for personnel in the event of an air-raid as it divides up the sleeping arrangement into two different directions.

All classes of mess have in common, a floor plan designed on the internal dispersal principle whereby the central element – the dining room, kitchen and recreational facilities – are separated from the accommodation wings by lengths of corridors with the idea of localising the effects of damage by a single bomb. The complex therefore has an 'H'-shaped planform. Another feature of this is the main longitudinal corridor which runs in a straight line, connecting with both accommodation wings at the extreme ends and all mess facilities within the central block as well as all exits (along its length). At Coltishall, as at elsewhere, within a short running distance from the exit points along the main east-west corridor, were underground air-raid shelters of which at least one example is extant.

#### **11.1d Interior Description – Central Mess**

The front elevation is symmetrical consisting of a central, three-arched loggia forming the main entrance which gives access to doorways having semi-circular fanlights and into a large spacious hall that is joined at either end by the longitudinal corridor.

To the right of the entrance hall is the anteroom (or sitting room); as this is south facing and lit by large sash windows, it has a light and airy feel about it. On the opposite side of the entrance hall is a small anteroom room and further west along the corridor is the card-writing room. The dining room (or mess room) is to the north of the corridor opposite the anteroom, and therefore is at right angles to the other function rooms. For this reason it is significantly darker than the south-facing rooms. This room has a characteristic barrel-shaped ceiling arrangement with hidden lighting along the side walls.

The main corridor also has a 5 ft deep subway to carry the central heating pipes (feed and return) and primary hot water from the basement boiler house and pump room. These feed radiators and hot water outlets located throughout the complex. As originally designed three wells (or areas) conveniently close to toilets within the central block provides a flood of natural light into surrounding rooms which otherwise would be very dark (as they are surrounded by adjacent rooms).

Rooms (as-built) that occupy the space between the main corridor and the parallel kitchen corridor include the following (east to west): stairway, light well, bar lounge and servery, toilets, light well, laundry, a connecting corridor between the main and kitchen corridors, light well, waiter's bedroom, equipment room, plate store, female toilets and mess president's office.



The large kitchen area occupies the western side of the dining room and is north of the kitchen corridor. The outside space between the extended dining room and kitchen was utilised post-1953 by constructing a large wash up area and a new servery which was separated from the original build on the southern side by a narrow light well that spans between the kitchen and dining room. To the south of the new light well is a pan wash and a messman's office. Immediately west of this series of rooms is the kitchen with separate meat, vegetable and pastry preparation rooms as well as a larder. This area forms the central part of the central block which at the northern elevation has a projecting staircase annexe that gives access to the staff quarters at first floor.

The remaining rooms lie to the west of the central kitchen and north of the kitchen corridor. These include a waiters' day room, beer and wine stores, the messman's yard, mess waiters' yard and a scullery.

As built the complex had its own boiler house where two 420,000 BTU boilers and circulating pumps provided hot water for heating and one 240,000 BTU boiler provided a hot water service. This was located in a basement below part of the original kitchen with access from a flight of stairs within the site of a kitchen yard (west).

There are two flats at first floor level for accommodating staff, one over the northern half of the kitchen central block with four rooms served by a corridor, and the other over the western side of the kitchen complex with two main rooms and toilets and a box room served by a corridor which connects with a staircase that is accessed from the western end of the kitchen corridor.

#### **11.1e Mess Complex Extensions**

The 1953 new-build was designed to increase the number of personnel dining to 175, extending the mess room by 55 ft in permanent construction to the northern end of the existing dining room. The mess extension matches the original in architectural design and is a very good likeness to the original. The architect was EV Marriott and his drawing is 3354A/53, dated May 1953.

A new billiard room was also built in the space previously occupied by outbuildings between the western quarters block and the kitchen block. A staff dining room, rest room and dry goods store was also built in the space previously occupied by the western kitchen yard. Both of these additions were built in 24 ft span Uni-Seco hutting.

In April 1986, the old Uni-Seco hut used as a staff rest room was demolished and replaced with a brick-built version. This has a central corridor with male and female toilets at the far end, plus male changing and a staff rest room on one side, and female changing, equipment room, freezer room and a kitchen store on the other side of the corridor. It is constructed with external walls of cavity brick / concrete block and a gang-nail timber roof with hipped-shaped rafters and clad with concrete pantiles.

#### **11.1f Construction**

External walls of the original building are mainly 15 in cavity brick walls having 28-pane timber double-hung sash windows to the anteroom and dining rooms. The sashes have exposed frames, the openings being without brick returns. The brickwork appears to be fully bonded but the headers have been cut to create this illusion. The roof has (45-degree) steel trusses with 'V'-shaped angle struts and hipped-shaped rafters. That part over the two-storey sections feature 'W'-shaped angle struts connected by flat bearers; the hips are supported by vertical posts and purlins. The sloping sides of the roof are covered, and below these are hollow tile slabs (looking like red pantiles), while the flat section over the kitchen complex is a reinforced concrete slab with a lead covering (this has a slight fall so that rain water collects along two parallel gutters connecting with a number of RWP outlets).

▫ NGR: (50) TG 25541 22994

#### **11.1g Quarters Wings**

In theory any size quarter blocks could be added as east and west wings but in practice the wings could support a similar population to those served in the mess. Therefore the original Coltishall officers' quarters had 44 bedrooms divided between a pair of two-storey link-detached accommodation wings. A central

corridor gives access to all rooms and there are two staircases for both quarters, one for officers and a smaller one for servants. There were two types of bedroom arrangement in both wings, a combined bedroom and sitting room for junior officers and a bedroom with separate sitting room for senior officers. The combined rooms were generally arranged back-to-back because the dividing wall is actually a pair of wardrobes arranged side-by-side – the opening on one side, forming the rear wall of the adjacent room. The sitting rooms had a fire place as did the servant's quarters. Other rooms were a box room and ablutions on both floors.

### 11.1h Married Quarter Estate

The pre-war planning of the officers' married quarter estate that was actually built consisted of the following houses:

Two Group IV      Six Group V      Two Group II

The first phase of post-war development on the officer's estate took place c.1950 when ten Group VI houses (3350/48) were built at the northern end of the estate. Around 1951, a further 16 officers' married quarters type 'V' were built, this time just north of the mess complex and this figure had been reduced from 28.

In 1953 plans were prepared for major remodelling exercise with alterations and additions taking place to the dining room of the mess building to the designs of EC Marriott to drawing numbers 941/53, 3354A–3355/53. This development was carried out at the same time as 16 new officers' married quarters which supplement the two previous developments.



Plate 64: Officers' mess (50), central block





Plate 65: Officers' mess (50), main entrance



Plate 66: Officers' mess (50), dining room





Plate 67: Officers' mess (50), single officers' quarters block, east wing



Plate 68: Officers' mess (50), dining room and staff quarters





Plate 69: Officers' mess (50), mess man's quarters



Plate 70: Officers' mess (50), single officers' quarters, west wing





Plate 71: Officers' mess (50), anteroom



Plate 72: Officers' mess (50), dining room



## 11.2 New Single Officers' Quarters – Extension (50A)

A new three-storey quarter block was designed by the PSA in the winter of 1977 and was built on the site of a cultivated garden and a group of six Uni-Seco single officers' quarter blocks (207A to 207D).

The new building has an L'-shaped planform and consists of three rectangular link-detached blocks arranged in a staggered formation around a courtyard. The second floor is a Mansard arrangement with a flat concrete slab and timber rafters forming a pitch to the longitudinal sides. It is connected to the original western quarters block by a single-storey corridor. The bedrooms are mainly combined bed and living rooms for junior officers, but ten are arranged on the second floor as bedrooms with separate living rooms for senior officers. Construction is of cavity brick / concrete block and timber rafters clad with artificial slate. The concrete slab floors and roof sections were supplied by Booth Concrete Ltd.

▫ NGR: (50A) TG 25466 22971

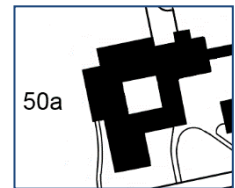


Plate 73: New single officers' quarters (50A)



Plate 74: New single officers' quarters (50A), main entrance



### 11.3 Officers' Mess Garages (51)

Designed by the AMWD architect Frank Lambert to drawing 8987/39, this is a terrace of 20 brick-built garages with a 40 degree timber pitched roof (with collars) and a ceiling. Dividing walls at 9 ft 10 in centres are constructed from sheets of corrugated iron fixed to timber battens.

▫ NGR: (51) TG 25532 23041

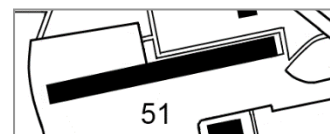


Plate 75: Officers' mess garages (51), front view



Plate 76: Officers' mess garages (51), rear view



### 11.4 Squash Racquets Court (52)

The squash racquets court is single storey with a rectangular-shaped planform. It includes the playing court and a changing room and store.

From July 1988, the exterior walls were insulated on the outside with insulating render and new profile metal sheeting with curved eaves replaced the old roof covering. It is believed to have been a wartime temporary brick version that has been heavily modified and modernised which has included building above a changing room annexe at the front of the building so that it is flush with the roof covering.

Since its extreme modifications it has been used for boxing.

- Footprint: 7.00 by 12.17 m
- NGR: (52) TG 25526 23068

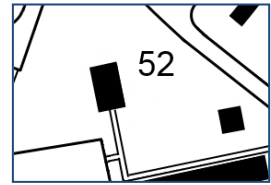
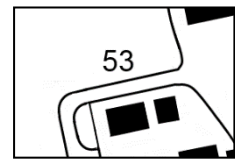


Plate 77: Squash racquets court (51)

### 11.5 Single Officers' Quarters – Boiler House (53)

Designed by EC Marriot to drawing 3099/52, dated July 1952, this is a dedicated boiler house (originally coal-fired) which provided a steam heating service to the single officers' quarters. It consists of a brick-built boiler house with two boilers, a fuel store and bunker and a compound with four calorifiers. There is also a combined water tank house (with two 1,000 gallon header tanks at 20 ft height) and an exhaust stack. Exterior walls are 9 in; the roof is a Sigwart concrete slab.



Adjacent to it is an oil tank concrete walled bund which is now without its tanks.

▫ NGR: (53) TG 25484 23007



Plate 78: Single officers' quarters boiler house (53) and oil tank bund



### 11.6 Officers' Mess Refuse Compound (208)

Constructed c.1989, this is a small single-storey temporary brick-built storage facility with two doorways, vented flyscreen type windows and consists of two store rooms. It has a nominal flat roof clad with ribbed sheeting carried on 'Z' purlins. The concrete floor is raised slightly.

- NGR: (208) TG 25516 23019

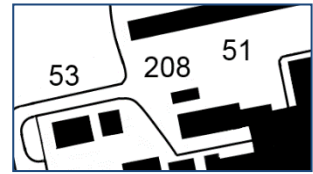


Plate 79: Officers' mess refuse compound (208)

**SOURCES (IN-HOUSE DRAWINGS)**

EC/25/83 ME&E	Air Conditioning for Interim COC Building (32)
AB1/1A Dental	Centre Extension (33)
COL 47A/62	SHQ roof over GPO room (35)
ALG/1	Sergeants' mess plan (41)
ABG/1	Sergeants' mess plan (41)
AB1/1	Sergeants' mess extensions and alterations (41)
WA7/92/58	Sergeants' mess modernisation (41)
WA7/144/58	Officers' mess modernisation (41)
309/4	New SNCO's Quarters Plans (41A)
ADG/68800A	New SNCO's Quarters Plans (41A)
XD1/1	New SNCO's Quarters Foundations (41A)
3355/53	Officers' mess extensions (50)
3354A/53	Officers' mess alterations (50)
941/53	Officers' mess details of steel work (50)
3741/53	Officers' mess alterations layout of fire and domestic water supply (50)
466/53	Officers' mess alteration and additions foul and storm water drainage (50)
ABG3	Officers' quarters extension (50A)
ABG4	Officers' quarters extension (50A)
ABG5	Officers' quarters extension (50A)
16589/40	Squash court (52)
880039	Squash racquets court (52)
39099/52	Boiler house (53)
P473/1384	English Electric Stand-by Set Installation Drawing (58)
M&E 15921/61	Layout of stand-by set (58)
10966/38	Stand-by set house (58)
1965/53	Stand-by set house (58)
7558/60F	Gymnasium (100)
7559/60F	Gymnasium (100)
7560/60F	Gymnasium (100)
916/62F	Gymnasium (100)
13096/61F	Gymnasium
NAO/198/75/1	Provision of two squash courts (152)